

--38. (new) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of claim 8.

39. (new) A host cell transformed or transfected with a nucleic acid sequence of
claim 8.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

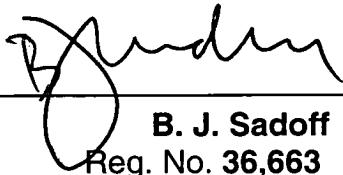
The above amendments have been made to, at least, place claims 9, 10, and 18 to 29, in condition for allowance. The basis for new claims 38 and 39 may be found in claims 13 and 14. Claim 9 has been amended to be independent to, at least, place claims 9, 10, and 18 to 29, in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable response to the present paper and the Response filed April 3, 2001, are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:eaw

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

9. (Amended) A [The] purified nucleic acid sequence encoding a sodium channel protein [of claim 8] wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises the coding portion of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:7.

13. (Twice Amended) A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of claims [8,] 9, 10, 18, 19 or 20.

14. (Twice Amended) A host cell transformed or transfected with a nucleic acid sequence of claims [8,] 9, 10, 18, 19 or 20.